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THE TRIUMPHANT Chriſtian:

OR THE DYING WORDS AND Extraordinary Behaviour OF A

Gentleman who departed this Life on the Fifth Day of *September* 1725. in the Fifty-ninth Year of his Age. Faithfully tranſcribed from Notes taken by a Perſon who attended him in his Sickneſs: Worthy the Peruſal of every ſerious Chriſtian, and Publiſh'd with a ſincere Deſign of Good to all.

LONDON:
Printed for T. Cox at the *Lamb* under the *Royal-Exchange*, and T. WARNER at the *Black-Boy* in *Pater-noſter-Row*. 1725.

THE

TRIUMPHANT

Christian:

OR THE

DYING WORDS

AND

Extraordinary Behaviour

BRITISH MUSEUM

Gentleman who departed this Life on the Fifth Day of *September* 1725, in the Fifty-ninth Year of his Age. Faithfully transcribed from Notes taken by a Person who attended him in his Sickness: Worthy the Perusal of every serious Christian, and Publish'd with a sincere Design of Good to all.

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THE

Triumphant

CHRISTIAN.

AS the End of Publiſhing the following Narrative, is rather for the Good of thoſe that read; than to raiſe a Reputation for the Deceas'd, or his ſurviving Relations; none of which ſtand in need of any ſuch Methods to inhance their Worth; we ſhall, as we have been deſired, altogether conceal the

Name, Family, and Place of Abode of our dear departed Friend; whoſe Dying Behaviour is the Subject of theſe Sheets: The World may be aſſured the Relation is true; and that it is almoſt Word for Word, the ſame that was delivered by the Gentleman himſelf: The Glory of God, and the Good of his People, were the Great Deſigns he ever had in View; and it would be acting unfaithfully by him, if in this Work which ſo nearly concerns himſelf, we ſhould not entirely purſue the ſame Intentions; therefore to God's Honour, and the Advantage of Souls, 'tis entirely devoted; may it effectually produce both.

All then that's neceſſary to be ſaid of this good Man, is, that he was born a Gentleman of ~~very~~ valuable Religious Parents, diſſenting from the Eſtabliſh'd Church, as he did himſelf to the Laſt. He was an only Child, and Heir to twelve Hundred Pounds

Pounds a Year; which he has now left with ſome ſmall Additions, to a Son and two Daughters, the Poſſeſſors of his Fortune and Virtues: his Lady an Exemplary Pious Chriſtian died ſome Years before him: He had had a very liberal Education, was ſome time at a Univerſity in Holland, after which he travelled for about two Years, then returning to England he married, and ſettled in a Seat of his own, near a large Town about fifty Miles from London, where he lived five and thirty Years without removing, unleſs for a few Days, till he chang'd that Situation for the ſilent Grave: He was a Man of great Knowledge, and large Experience in Religion, had fine natural Parts: His Diſpoſition and Deportment was ſweet and engaging, his Perſon comely, his Converſation always wiſe, inſtructive, and agreeable: He was humble, and courteous,

kind to all, moſt charitable to the Poor, eſpecially the induſtrious Poor; and many a Family has he ſaved by his private Aſſiſtance from Deſtruction, which would otherwiſe have been torn to Pieces and ruin'd: His Houſe was a little Sanctuary, a Place where God dwelt, or a Society as it might more properly be called, which God Bleſs'd, and in which he was lov'd, obeyed, and conſtantly worſhipp'd; a ſweet Agreement, Peace, and Good-Will reigned among them, they were all pious without Enthuſiaſm, and ſerious without Affectation; beloved and highly eſteemed by all their Acquaintance of what different Perſwaſion in Religion ſoever; and no Man could leave this World more univerſally lamented among all that had any Knowledge of him, than the Deceaſed; he departed about three Months ago, in the fifty ninth Year of his Age, after a Life ſpent

who died

with

with God, and for the Good of Mankind; in Religion and kind Offices.

After what has been ſaid, we need make no further Apology for this Publication; we doubt not but by the Divine Aſſiſtance, it may be of great Advantage to many a ſerious Soul, both in Life and at Death: But to back our Thoughts with the Approbation of a great, and good Man; allow us to quote his Opinion in the Caſe, in his own Words: 'The Truth of it is, ſays he, there is nothing in Hiſtory 'which is ſo improving to the Rea-'der as thoſe Accounts which we 'meet with, of the Death of emi-'nent Perſons, and of their Beha-'viour in that dreadful Seaſon. I 'may alſo add, that there are no 'Parts in Hiſtory, which affect 'and pleaſe the Reader in ſo ſenſible 'a Manner. The Reaſon I take to 'be this; becauſe there is no 'one ſingle Circumſtance in the Sto-

'ry

'ry of any Perſon; which can poſ-
'ſibly be the Caſe of every one who
'reads it. A Battel, or a Triumph,
'are Conjunctures in which not one
'Man in a Million is likely to be en-
'gaged; but when we ſee a Perſon
'at the Point of Death, we cannot
'forbear being attentive to every
'thing he ſays or does, becauſe
'we are ſure that ſome time
'or other we ſhall our ſelves be
'in the ſame melancholy Cir-
'cumſtances. The General, the
'Stateſman, or the Philoſopher, are
'perhaps Characters which we may
'never act in; but the Dying Man
'is one, whom ſooner or later we
'ſhall certainly reſemble.

The Reader is deſired to carry in his Thoughts as he goes on, that here is only what was ſpoken by the dying Man, and that as they are almoſt his own Words, ſo they are ſet down in almoſt the ſame Order he delivered them.

His

His Death was by a Conſumption, that for three or four Years, by a gradual ſlow Progreſs, had reduced and waſted him: The laſt Year he weather'd the Diſtemper, by the Divine Bleſſing upon Applications for his Support, to the Amazement of all that ſaw him, he preſerv'd an Alacrity of Mind, uncommon in ſuch Caſes, to the laſt; never was known to fail in the Duties of his Family, or abate the uſual Converſation with his Friends; till at length, the natural Moiſture being dried away, and the vital Heat exhauſted, the Lamp of Life went out at once, like the Flame from an expiring Taper.

On Saturday Noon, the Day before he died, he was ſenſible of a very great Alteration in himſelf: This Shock alarmed the Family, but not him; at their Requeſt, but againſt his own Inclination, Phyſicians were immediately ſent for, and almoſt as

ſoon

ſoon diſmiſs'd; they only confirm'd the Opinion that he himſelf had, and indeed all his Friends that it was impoſſible for them to be of any Service to him, or he to recover: Nature was paſs'd help, he was now to look for a Diſcharge of it; which happened in a few Hours after: Upon this, he ſent for three Friends, and his Family into his Chamber, where among all their Tears and Lamentations, with the utmoſt Compoſure of Mind, he ſpoke to them in the tender moving Manner following:

My dear Children and Friends, I ſend for you to take my laſt Leave of you, to bid you, and all the World Farewell: I am going where I hope one Day we ſhall have a joyful Meeting; but I ſhall never return to you; the Places and Perſons that have known me, muſt here know me no more: Come now my dear Children and kiſs your dying Father, or elſe

you

you may looſe an Opportunity for that laſt Endearment: Death is doing his Work apace. Don't be ſo greatly mov'd, nothing but your Tears, can diſquiet me: I have nothing now to do but to die: 'Tis a great Work; O! to do it well; my Worldly Affairs are all ſettled, I won't ſpend a Thought, I won't looſe a Moment about them; I have but a few, a very few, I'm ſatisfy'd, to come, may they be well employ'd: You'll find in the Diſpoſal of my Eſtate, how equally dear you are all to me, and how ſenſible I have been of the Duty and Affection you have each of you, through the whole Courſe of your Lives, ever paid me; may God requite you, in more valuable Bleſſings, than any thing I am capable of leaving you: I have no need to add any Inſtructions to thoſe I have already given in the Courſe of our Converſation, and which you have both received, and hitherto

practiſed ; they are ſufficient for your Conduct, either to God or Man ; go on as you have hitherto done, remember the Words of your living, as well as dying Father : May the God of Peace be with you, the Almighty God of Jacob bleſs and keep you : May your Father's God and your own God in Covenant, be your preſent Inheritance, and your everlaſting Portion : May your mutual Happineſs be continued, and your everlaſting Felicity be ſecured : May the Glory of God be your chief, your great Aim at all times ; may what ever you ſpeak, deſign, or perform, have a direct Tendency thereto : May you prove a Bleſſing to Society in General, and Inſtrumental of much Good to the Cauſe, and People of Jeſus Chriſt our bleſſed Lord and Maſter.

My Dear Friends ; among them, I would include you alſo, my dear Children, who have for many Years been

been my beſt Friends and Companions; you can't but ſee the earnings of my Bowels towards you; all the Tenderneſs of my Soul is mov'd; nothing of the World raiſes the leaſt Inclination in me to ſtay longer here; 'tis you only that I can't ſo eaſily part with; my Affections are working towards you; and was it not that I am fully perſwaded we ſhall meet again, the Struggle would be hard, very hard, parting would be dreadful Work indeed: But O! let me not indulge this Weakneſs any longer; I am going to our dear Lord and Maſter, the Bleſſed Jeſus, of whom I was juſt now a ſpeaking; and 'tis with him I leave you; He'll ſoon infinitely more than make up to me the Loſs of Children, and all that's dear to me here; and repair the Loſs of a Father to you.

Here endeavouring too much to keep in his Tears, which ſeveral

times guſh'd out; and ſmother the Commotions of his Mind, which were raiſed by the Tears, and Tenderneſs, of his Children and Friends; he ſunk down in the Bed and faintted: They all thought he was gone, but in a few Minutes he reviv'd, and they perſwaded him to take a little Cordial, and compoſe himſelf to reſt, which he comply'd with, and ſlept, or rather ſlumber'd, about two Hours; which a little enlivening his Spirits, he thus begun again:

Let me pray with you my Friends, its likely to be the laſt time I ſhall ever do it; and indeed I thought a little while ago, that this Opportunity would not have been allow'd me; I am juſt upon the Brink of Eternity, and I'm ſatisfy'd 'twill be but a few Minutes, before I launch into that boundleſs Ocean: I muſt lie in my Bed in the Poſture I am in, for I am not now able to kneel: Upon

on which with the greateſt Calmneſs of Spirit, and with his uſual Fluency he pray'd:

Moſt Glorious, moſt Holy Lord God: Thou art Infinite, Eternal and Unchangeable, the only Living and True God, poſſeſs'd of all poſſible Excellence and Perfection: Thou dwelleſt in inacceſſable Light, to which, neither Men nor Angels can approach; Thou, O Lord, art only neceſſarily Self-Exiſting, the Supreme, Independant Being; from whom we receive Life, and Breath, and all Things: Thou art the High and Lofty One, who inhabits Eternity; before the Mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadſt form'd the Earth, or the World, even from Everlaſting, to Everlaſting, thou art God: There are no Viciſſitudes, no Changes, or the leaſt Shadow of Turning with God; Alterations, and Death, are the Lot and Deſert of Mortal, or ſinful Beings:

Thou

Thou art the Soveraign Lord of the Univerſe; the God of Nature, the God of Grace; the great Creator, and Poſſeſſor of Heaven and Earth, and all things therein: Theſe, O Lord, declare thy Glory, and are undeniable Teſtimonies of thine infinite Wiſdom, Goodneſs and Power. Truly happy are they, and only they, who have an Intereſt in thy Favour; in that is Life, and thy Loving Kindneſs is better than Life: Thou art the only Source of real Happineſs: Afflictions with thy Favour, are infinitely before Deliverance from the greateſt Diſtreſs, without it; to have God for our Portion, and be deſtitute of the common Neceſſaries of Life, is beyond Compariſon more deſirable than Wealth, Power, and Honours; all the Good and Glory of the World without God: Thy over-ruling Providence diſpoſes all Events, and of all Perſons: With the utmoſt

Awe

Awe and Reverence, O Lord, we would approach thee; duly ſenſible of the Majeſty and Perfections of the Great God; and of the infinite Diſtance there is between that Being, who is Purity, and Perfection it ſelf, and ſuch defiled, guilty Creatures as we are: O Lord, Thou art above and beyond all poſſible Bleſſing, and Praiſe; the Services of the moſt exalted created Natures are infinitely ſhort of thee: 'Tis Condeſcenſion in God to regard the moſt perfect Adorations, and Obedience of the Bleſs'd above; what wonderous Goodneſs is it then, O Lord, for Thee to have reſpect to thoſe who dwell in Houſes of Clay, and whoſe Foundations are in the Duſt? But our Conſolation is, that we have an All-prevailing Interceſſor with thee, Chriſt Jeſus the Righteous; our moſt bleſſed Mediator and Advocate; the Lord Our Righteouſneſs, and Strength; thro'

thro' whom, unworthy, and without him, undone Creatures, may have Acceſs to, and be accepted by, their great Creator : The Satisfaction Chriſt has made to the Divine Juſtice is compleat ; He has dy'd, the Juſt for the Unjuſt, to bring us unto God : He was once our Submitting, Suffering, Crucify'd Saviour, he is now our exalted Lord and King ; but ſtill as our Propitiation, is pleading his own Merit before the Throne, in behalf of his Church ; and by that Demands, as by it he ever deſerves whatever Good in Time, or Eternity his People can want, or enjoy : Thro' him alone we would come before Thee, O Lord ; may this Act of Duty ; be an Act of Communion with God ; may what we offer come from God, and it ſhall then aſcend to Thee : Let our Hearts be influenced by thy moſt Holy Spirit ; Let our Petitions be

ſuch

ſuch as Chriſt may plead for above; and then we may be aſſured of the utmoſt Succeſs: I am now, O Lord, at thy Footſtool, I ſhall ſoon be at thy Bar: O, be preſent with me in theſe laſt Moments of Nature's Diſtreſs; I am almoſt at Home; and I know, I ſhall moſt certainly be convey'd ſafe thither: O, make the Paſſage eaſy, if it be thy Will: Now, O Lord, compleat thy Work in me, thy Goodneſs towards me; may I act this laſt Part, thou haſt allotted me, to Advantage: May this be the happieſt Seaſon that ever I experienc'd: May I dye to thy Glory, in thy Favour; to the great Benefit of all that know, or may hear of me; an Encouragement for them to chooſe that God for their Portion; who, when his People ſtand moſt in Need of his Aſſiſtance, is then moſt ready to afford it; For the Lord Jeſus Chriſt's

Sake, fully pardon all my Sins, paſs by every failing of my Life; freely forgive whatever has been contrary to thy moſt Holy Law and Nature; every Sin of Omiſſion or Commiſſion, of Ignorance or Preſumption; whatever I ſtand chargeable with, by thy Divine Juſtice. Waſh me in the Blood of Chriſt from all Defilement, either of Original Pollution, or Actual Tranſgreſſion: Now, O Lord, perform thy Part of the Covenant, with thy poor Creature to the full: O, come thou Spirit of the moſt High, ſanctify me throughout in Body and Soul; and give in that Comfort, that Peace, which thou, O Lord, alone canſt give; maintain it to the laſt, till the Conflict's over, and Death is ſwallow'd up in Victory: Let no falſe Fears alarm me, no falſe Hopes deceive me: Let not thy Wrath, O Lord, terrify me; let not the

Great Enemy of Souls be ſuffer'd to buffet me; let not the Remembrance of my paſt Miſcarriages overwhelm, and ſink me: O, let me know I am pardon'd, fully pardon'd, for the Sake of my dear Redeemer: Grant me, O Lord, an Aſſurance of thy Love: Let me have the beſt Reaſon to depend upon it, the inward Teſtimony of thy Spirit witneſſing with mine, that I am the Child of God: May I have the many Prayers I put up to thee my God, in the Time of my Health, for a Preparation for Death, be anſwer'd in Mercy to me now; if it be thy Will, O Lord, preſerve the Powers and Faculties of my Mind in proper Exerciſe to the laſt; that to my lateſt Breath, and with it, I may bleſs and praiſe my God; declare my former Experiences of thy Faithfulneſs, Power, and Love; and give an undeniable Teſtimony, that

Religion is more than a Speculation, that 'tis a real Principal in the Soul; and then may Death, O Lord, be an eaſy, happy, Tranſition to me, out of a World of Sin, Snares, and Sorrow, to Immortality, Peace, Happineſs and Glory with God and Chriſt above: I would commit and commend my Friends and Family, that I muſt now part with, to the Divine Favour; may the Bleſſing of Almighty God be conſtantly upon them; may what Chriſt has purchas'd, and what thy Covenant ſecures, be their Portion now and for ever: Guide them by thy Counſel here, and afterwards receive them to thy ſelf: Hear and accept us, O Lord; anſwer in Mercy this Minute, the next may be too late, for the Lord Jeſus Chriſt's Sake; in whom alone is our hope of Mercy from thee; upon his Account, do for each of us, as we now, or

may hereafter ſtand in Need of thy Aſſiſtance; and according to what we may have the utmoſt Reaſon to bleſs thee for in Time, and thro' the endleſs Ages of Eternity: To God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the one immortal, inviſible, and only wiſe God, be uninterrupted Honour, and Glory, Adoration, Bleſſing and Praiſe, World without End, Amen.

The Length of his Prayer, and the extraordinary Vehemence and Earneſtneſs, with which he deliver'd it, which can hardly be conceiv'd of, but by thoſe preſent, quite exhauſted his Spirits, and he was almoſt motionleſs, without ſpeaking a Word for about an Hour; when the Miniſter of the Congregation he belong'd to, being acquainted how ill he was, came to ſee him: This Gentleman is a moſt grave, judicious, Chriſtian; a Man of Learning, and

Worth,

Worth, and has been in the Miniſtry upwards of two and thirty Years: As ſoon as our dear Friend ſaw him he receiv'd, and with a ſurprizing Alacrity, ſaid, good Sir I am glad to ſee you, and to ſee you upon this Occaſion; you are juſt come in Time, to do your laſt kind Offices to your dying Friend; ſit down, I hope by the Divine Aſſiſtance, you, as well as I, will have Comfort in my End: I have a Peace within too great to be expreſs'd, I feel, I enjoy it; but no Words can repreſent it: You'll find Sir, that your Labours have not been in vain, I am one Teſtimony to the contrary, bleſſed be God: Thanks to you for that powerful preaching I have ſet under for many Years; O thoſe Heavenly Diſcourſes, thoſe moſt prevailing Prayers; thank you, Sir, for that pious, that Heavenly Converſation, that both my ſelf, and

Family

Family have ſo often been favour'd with: Continue it, I beſeech you to them, they value it as much as I do, and may one Day bleſs you for it upon a dying Bed, as I do now; as for my ſelf, I ſhall ſoon be beyond the Reach of Prayer, and above the Uſe of Ordinances; in the happy, the full Poſſeſſion of all they repreſent, or lead to.

Is it not amazing, Sir, don't you bleſs God with me, that ſuch a vile Sinner as I am, ſhould be thus eaſy upon a Death-Bed; and juſt going to appear before the great Judge of the World; that ſuch a poor worn out, ſhrivell'd up Creature, who has hardly any Remains of human Nature, but a wither'd Skin ſticking cloſe to dry Bones, ſhould be able to talk thus to thoſe about him; O! God has been ever good to me, I have experienc'd it in a thouſand remarkable Inſtances, and

I find he will be ſo to the laſt: He is the God who has fed and cloath'd, and comforted me all my Life-time; by Night and by Day he has watch'd over me for good; in Journeys and at reſt taken care of me; in the Day, the Hour, the Inſtant almoſt that I have cried, God has anſwer'd and ſav'd me: When no Arm but his own could bring me Salvation, than that has done it to the full; I never yet call'd upon him in vain: O, living and dying, we ſhould declare the loving Kindneſs of the Lord

Here the Miniſter broke in upon him, and that he might not ſpend himſelf too much by talking, began a very ſuitable Diſcourſe, upon the Happineſs of Believer's Union to Chriſt; but he was aware of the Deſign, and ſoon interrupted him. I thank you good Sir, ſays he, I heartily thank you for your kind Intention, you are for having

having me ſpare myſelf I find; O, no, no, the Work I'm engag'd in, is purely perſonal, none can do it for me, indulge me therefore to go on, while I can ſpeak, to bleſs my God, and give my dying Teſtimony to what, as I ſaid before you came in I have found of his Faithfulneſs, Power, and Love: Why have I ſo much Srength of Body and Mind allow'd me, but to uſe it for his Glory: My Speech may ſhortly fail me, and my Tongue cleave to the Roof of my Mouth; O, then bleſs God for me, and put up your Prayers for my departing Soul; perhaps then I ſhall be able to hear, and underſtand you; which if I do I'll let you know, by laying my Hand upon my Heart.

Is it not the utmoſt Condeſcention in the great God, my Friends, that he'll allow ſuch a Worm as I am, to bleſs him at all; or to take his moſt High and Holy Name into

my polluted Lips; O, the Lord is infinitely kind and plenteous in Mercy: Bleſſed, for ever bleſſed be God for all his Diſpenſations towards me thro' the Courſe of Life; I conſider them now together; and find that the Tendency of them all, has been for my beſt Good, and God's Glory; O praiſed be the Lord, even for thoſe adverſe Providences, that once ſo much croſs'd my Inclinations, and thwarted my Deſigns; I am ſenſible now, that all was wiſely and graciouſly order'd for my everlaſting Advantage: O, God has indeed been my kindeſt, my beſt Friend, my moſt bountiful Benefactor, moſt faithful and kind; he never broke his Promiſes: He is ever mindful of his Covenant: I have truſted in him and never was deceived in my God; and I never ſhall be: God in Chriſt is my Rock, the Portion of my Soul, he is my preſent Good, and will be

my

my everlaſting Felicity; O, what ſhould I now do without an Intereſt in Chriſt: O the precious Blood of Chriſt: 'Tis of infinite Value; I ever ſaid, I thought it ſo; but how do you think I eſteem it now; I am a dying, but not a periſhing Creature; no, I know in whom I have believ'd; in Jeſus Chriſt my Lord and my God; he is able, and will keep what I have committed to him; he will conduct my Soul ſafe to his Heavenly Kingdom; thro' him I have overcome the World, conquer'd Temptations; and thro' him I ſhall ſoon be triumphant over Death, and all the Powers of Darkneſs.

O my precious my immortal Soul! thou art ſafe; thy Redeemer is the Lord thy Maker; he is an all-ſufficient Saviour, and the eternal God; to no leſs than God could I now truſt thee, without uneaſineſs, without fear; to him I moſt joyfully

commit thee; thou art an Object of his Love, and Care; he will compleat the good Work he has begun in thee; and for thee; thy Redeemer's Glory would elſe ſuffer an Eclipſe: Shake off thy Fetters then my Soul, and rejoyce in Chriſt Jeſus thy Lord; hold on thy Courſe; keep thy Ground, maintain thy hope but a few Moments more, and thy Work will be over, thy Race run, and thou ſhalt enter upon thine Heavenly Inheritance; O, there ſhalt thou ever be with thy Lord; there, thy Longings, thy Breathings after thy God ſhall be ſatisfy'd: There, the cloſeneſs of thy Union to God, and the Intimacy of thy Communion with him, ſhall compleat thy Happineſs: There, ſhalt thou be an Eternal Witneſs to the Integrity of thy Redeemer's Promiſes; to his Capacity to ſave; and to the rich free Grace of God in Chriſt: O, there

ſhall be no Sorrow ; and what is better, no Sin ; there ſhalt thou know and love, enjoy, and glorify thy God, in a Manner thou art here incapable of ; thy Love ſhall indeed center in him ; thou ſhalt be perfectly ſuch as God, will delight in : Thou wilt then be under no fear of offending him ; there will be no Temptations to Baſeneſs, and Ingratitude to thy beſt Friend : No Hazard any more of ruining thy ſelf, or breaking in upon thy Peace, and Happineſs ; but thro' the endleſs Ages of Eternity thou ſhalt be ſinging uninterrupted Hallelujahs to thy God and Saviour ; be ever paying thy Debt of Gratitude ; the leaſt part of which thou can'ſt never diſcharge ; becauſe the giving thee a Power, in that happy Manner to acknowledge thy Obligations, will ever encreaſe them.

I have juſt done, my Friends, my Strength fails me, I hope however, to have that Refreſhment this Night, which I'm perſuaded will be my laſt among you, that may enable me to ſpend as much of the approaching Sabbath, as ſhall be allow'd me on Earth, as my laſt Sabbath; O what a bleſſed Change would it be, to go from keeping a Sabbath with God's People on Earth; to keep an Eternal One with God himſelf in Heaven.

Here he lay ſtill about two Hours, then thus of a ſudden broke Out: Am not I my Friend's a Monument, of God's rich free Grace, of his boundleſs Love and Mercy in Chriſt: There are many in the World, were they to ſee me; would be pittying my Caſe; perhaps think me too gaſtly to look upon, and rejoyce they were not in my Circumſtances; O, but that would be, becauſe they know not my

my inward Comforts; they are Strangers to the Joys of my Soul; I have perfect Peace within; that Peace which indeed none but God could give: O, I would not change Conditions with the moſt Wiſe, moſt Wealthy, moſt Great, moſt happy upon Earth; was it poſſible I could be poſſeſs'd of Thouſands of Worlds, what would they avail me in this Hour of Death, how much leſs in that of approaching Judgment: What ſhould I do, whether ſhould I look, what would become of me, as I ſaid before, without an Intereſt in Chriſt: O none but Chriſt, none but Chriſt, no Saviour but him: O, moſt extenſive is the Efficacy of his precious Blood; is it not my Brethren? For it has reach'd to me, one of the vileſt of Sinners: O, here is boundleſs Goodneſs, unfathomable Love: This Blood has waſhed clean my Soul, the Seat of Defilement

ment that was black as Hell; purify'd my Conſcience that was darker than the Grave, and made it brighter than the Light; in a Word, this Blood will make me, who was vile, moſt vile a Child of Hell, an Heir of Wrath; holy before God; and fit to live with God, and Chriſt; with Angels, and the Spirits of good Men made perfect, to all Eternity; and in a few Minutes my Soul ſhall be made perfect alſo: O bleſſed, for ever bleſſed be God my Saviour, eternal Praiſes be render'd to thee: may thy Saints and Angels for ever bleſs thee; O, my Soul ſhall eternally bleſs thee: Here he broke off, and deſired the Miniſter to perform the Family Worſhip for him; which about an Hour after he comply'd with in his Chamber, in a Manner moſt ſuitable to the Diſpenſation the Family was under; they all were bath'd in Tears; he was ſtill all

Joy

Joy and Extaſy; without the leaſt Symptom of uneaſineſs, but what their tenderneſs occaſion'd: He was heartily thankful to the Miniſter, embraced and kiſs'd his Children; and took leave of them and his Friends in ſo affectionate and moving a Manner, as 'tis not poſſible for Words to expreſs; he deſired to ſee them all again, if he ſurviv'd the Night; then they left him, except the Perſon appointed to ſet up in his Chamber; none of the Family went to bed; he lay pretty quiet indeed, from eleven a-Clock at Night, till five the next Morning, but had no Sleep; his Eyes were never clos'd till they were clos'd in Death: About twelve that Night, they thought he would have gone off, and his Family being alarm'd came into his Room; but in about an Hour he grew better, and they retir'd again; this was the laſt Preſage,

and about twelve a-Clock the next Night Death finiſh'd his Work.

They kept him by himſelf till about eight in the Morning, in hopes he might ſleep, but to no purpoſe, tho' he was much refreſh'd with lying ſtill, and Nature ſeem'd now to ſummon all its Forces at once for the laſt Onſet: Thoſe that were with him the Day before, with ſome other of his Acquaintance, came about Eight; and he being moſt deſirous to ſee them, they and his Family drew altogether about him: He ſeem'd extreamly glad of their Company, and told them he thank'd them kindly for it: They ask'd him how he did, and how he reſted in the Night: I was never better, ſaid he, I am near my Home, this I know to be the way to it; watch and pray with me, my Friends, an Hour; perhaps it may be but an Hour, and I ſhall have no need of Friends or Prayers:

Prayers : I have had Reſt to Night, but no Sleep ; I have been better, much better employ'd, I have been with my Saviour in the Mount ; and my Soul's abundantly comforted and refreſhed ; my Body is dying, but my Mind is ſtill vigorous, and alive ; I feel the cold Hand of Death is actually upon me ; and you may feel it too if you touch my Feet and Legs, they are once more Clay : Bleſs'd be God, Death is no King of Terrors to me ; he is a welcome Meſſenger, becauſe ſent by my Heavenly Father : Here I am, O Lord, a waiting thy Pleaſure ; ready to Obey the Summons ; thy Will, O Lord, be done ; bleſſed be God, that the Attack is made below ; my Head is as yet very clear and untouch'd ; and till my Heart feels the Damp, I hope to be engag'd in Work ſuitable to a Death-Bed ; It is not to me a Bed of Languiſhing and Waſting ; this poor Remains of

a Body is hardly capable of any greater Decay, till it moulders in the Grave; and there let it moulder; who would not part with it as it is? 'tis now my Burthen, my Bar to Happineſs, an Hindrance to a lively Spiritual Communion with my God; but O my Friends, 'tis united to Chriſt, and ſhall therefore one Day become a glorious Body; this Corruption ſhall put on Incorruption, and ſhall be for ever with the Lord.

Here he called for a little Cordial, to fortifie his Heart, he ſaid, and keep it warm, to finiſh if he could what he had further to ſay: His youngeſt Daughter carried it to him; the Tears inceſſantly run down her Cheeks, which ſhe endeavour'd to conceal from him; but he perceiv'd her Concern: He ask'd for her Brother and Siſter, who were in the ſame Condition with her ſelf, and had therefore ſet in a Part of the Room the

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Curtains kept from his Sight; he threw his cold Arms about them, and kiſs'd, and embraced each, with the Tenderneſs indeed of a Dying Parent: My dear Children, ſaid he, I find 'tis you want the Comforting, but how can your Father now give it; the very Attempt adds to your Grief; and my Words force a Flood of Tears from you: O you were moſt dear to me; and are ſo ſtill; ſince the Death of your dear Mother, whom I am now going to meet, I have known no worldly Bleſſing equal to you; you have always been moſt Dutiful and moſt affectionate: God will reward your Conduct to your Father, and make up your Loſs: But your Sorrow, my Children for what you looſe, ſhould not be ſo great, as your rejoycing for what I gain: I am going to God, to be ever with the Bleſſed Jeſus; and can now even part with you for ſuch a Change of Company; O

hold on your Courſe, and this happy Lot will one Day be yours, as 'tis now mine; I hope you'll have Cauſe to bleſs God, that you ſaw your Father die; ~~I ſhall ſhew you what it is to die well~~; O, let the Intention of all your Actions be the Glory of God, and your whole Lives one continued Preparation for Death; and then you need never fear a Death-Bed: You'll have Peace in your latter end, and be able to joy in an Hour of Death, and rejoyce in the Day of Judgment.

The Miniſter being willing to be Witneſs to the Behaviour of this extraordinary Man, as much as poſſible, came in about this time, being near nine a Clock; as ſoon as he came to the Bed Side, with much Pleaſure in his Countenance, he ſhook him by the Hand, and ſaid, My good Friend, I am glad to ſee you once more; the happy Day is at length come that will be my laſt,

and

and I hope my beſt: This is the Day of Days, the Day of God, we will ſtill rejoyce, and be glad in it; perhaps more ſo than ever we have before. This Day of my Lord has been ever my Delight, the Joy of my Soul; O! what happy Communion have I had with you my Friends, and others of God's People in his Houſe, in his Ordinances, on theſe Days; ſome of my Companions at his Table, have got the ſtart of me; they are at Home, have received their Welcome, and are now drinking the new Wine in their Father's Kingdom: But he is my Father as well as theirs; I ſhall ſoon be with them; and as together we have had Fellowſhip with him at his Footſtool here; ſo there we ſhall together glorify and praiſe him for ever and ever: I always eſteem'd it as one of the greateſt Bleſſings that attended the plentiful Circumſtances it pleaſed God to beſtow upon me

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in Life; that I and my Family were at Liberty without Incumbrance or Interruption to attend the publick Worſhip of God, and ſpend the Sabbath our own Way, without being engage on it, in either the Buſineſs or Pleaſures of the World.

O my Friends, I have but this Day to live, I plainly find; and I hope I have but this Day's Work to do: I am now to die, I am not now, adored be God, to prepare for Death; my Accounts of each Day have been each Day ſettled; and my immenſe Debt has been forgiven me: I am now waiting for the glorious Diſcoveries of an inviſible World; and Thanks be to God my Redeemer, I am not afraid to enter upon them. He then immediately went on as follow:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabbath; thou art the God of the Spirits of all Fleſh, thou art the Portion of my Soul, and ſhalt be

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ſo for ever; by thy Almighty Power, I am once more brought to the beginning of thy own Day; the Laſt I am ever like to enjoy upon Earth; make it to me, O Lord, for my bleſſed Redeemer's Sake, a moſt happy Day indeed, the beſt Sabbath that ever I experienced; may I have the utmoſt Cauſe to bleſs God for this Day to all Eternity; finiſh my gracious God thy Work of Grace in my Heart; fully prepare me for the everlaſting Enjoyment of thy ſelf; compleat my Repentance towards thee; let me not have a Sin unpardon'd; may Chriſt Jeſus my Lord be made to me, to the utmoſt, Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs, Sanctification, aud Redemption; let me know thee, and thy dear Son, ſo as to obtain eternal Life; may I love God with my whole Heart, Mind, and Strength, with that Affection which is ſuitable to the Excellency of the Divine Nature; O let me be con-

form'd to the Image of Chriſt, and made a Partaker of the Holineſs of God, as much as a poor Creature is capable thereof: Let my Faith and Love be in the higheſt Exerciſe this Day: Let not the Approaches of Death be able to ſhock the one, or abate the other: O, let every Power and Faculty of my Soul be employ'd with their utmoſt Efficacy to the laſt, in bleſſing and praiſing of thee my God, and in declaring my Hopes in thee, my Deſires towards thee; and what thou haſt hitherto done for my Soul: O, may this Sabbath be in reality not only to us here preſent, but to all thy People upon Earth, a bleſs'd Earneſt of, and a full Preparation for, an everlaſting Sabbath of Reſt with God above: Hear for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, and when thou heareſt, O Lord, forgive, and upon his Account do for us and for all thine, according to thine infinite unbounded Love in

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a dear Redeemer; according to what Chriſt has merited by his moſt precious Blood; and we want, according to what we have now, or in the whole Courſe of Life, askt in his Name, as far as it may be for thy Glory, and ſuitable to our Circumſtances, and to the glorious Creator of Heaven and Earth, may there now, and for ever, be aſcribed all Honour, Glory, and Power, Might, Majeſty and Dominion, Amen and Amen.

Soon after he had done, he deſired the Miniſter to pray with him, and to read the fifteenth Chapter of the firſt of the Corinthians, which he accordingly did: The only Petitions he directed him to put up for him, were; that God might be glorify'd to the utmoſt, in him and by him; that his inward Peace might continue, that his ſpiritual Joy might encreaſe, and that he might have a glorious, triumphant

Entrance into the Joy of his Lord: During the Time of this Prayer, which was moſt admirably adapted to the Deſire of our Friend: He was juſt like a Man in an Extaſy; his Heaven indeed was now begun, and he ſeem'd from this Inſtant to have his inward Satisfaction growing greater and greater, till at laſt he was made perfect in Happineſs.

The Miniſter now took his leave, being oblig'd to perform the Duties of his Function in the Congregation; they parted as if they had not been to have met here again, and a great many good and affectionate Things paſs'd on either ſide; tho' he did live till the Miniſter return'd; but tho' he knew him, as appear'd by the Signs he made, he was paſt ſpeaking a Word to him; the reſt of the Company ſtaid to the laſt: They now at his Requeſt went to Breakfaſt,

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and he lay quiet all the Time, which was about half an Hour, ſoon after they had done he ſaid to them:

My dear Friends, I find my Strength much impair'd ſince yeſterday; but ſure I am a wonderful Monument of God's Mercy; I am a dying Man, and have no Pain, either in Body, or Mind: O, why ſhould not the Terrors of the Almighty now fall upon me, and diſtract my Soul; I have been a moſt criminal Creature; by Nature vile, and by actual Tranſgreſſions much more abominable; why am I not now an Object of God's Indignation, a Terror to you and my ſelf; O, why is not my Mind full of Horror; why am I not under the dreadful Apprehenſions of the ſevereſt Weights of God's Wrath; O my beloved, that this is not my Caſe, is wholly owing to the rich free Grace of God for the Sake of Chriſt;

Chriſt; and not to any Deſert of mine; was I to have no other Comfort now, but what my paſt Services have merited, what a miſerable Condition ſhould I be in; the Duties I have engag'd in, have been many 'tis true, very many, but how unworthily have they been perform'd; how often have I worſhip'd God without Faith or Hope in due Exerciſe, without a ſincere Sorrow for Sin; without unfain'd Love for God, or delight in his ways; without holy Deſires towards him: How often have I pretended to praiſe and bleſs him, when my Heart and my Affections have been unmov'd, and I have been dull, careleſs, and thoughtleſs in the Service of my God: How have I added to my Guilt, when I made a Show of deprecating thy Wrath O Lord, and imploring thy Pardon for paſt Offences; and how have my Thoughts of God, and my Expreſ-

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ſions in Duty to him; been infinitely ſhort of the Perfections of the Divine Majeſty: O how great, and innumerable have been my Sins and Miſcarriages? How many, and groſs my Backſlidings from my God: O, the Thoughts of theſe Things might overwhelm me, and would do ſo, had I not the Righteous of Chriſt to plead, that's more than a Ballance to all, that either my own Heart, or even the Juſtice of God can charge me with; here my Hope is only fix'd; in Chriſt I am ſafe; and in him alone; on his Merit I have ventur'd thro' Time, and have not been diſappointed; on his Merit I can venture upon an Eternity, without any Fear of miſcarrying. I now again, as I have before, diſcard all that I have done; nothing can avail or ſtand me in any ſtead before God but the Merit of my dear Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt;

I expect to be freely juſtify'd for the Sake of Chriſt alone; to be openly acquitted of the Debt I owe to God, becauſe Chriſt Jeſus has paid it: Upon this I venture my Soul; O, let me have but what Chriſt has purchas'd for me; I am ſatisfy'd, and ſhall be ever more than ſatisfy'd; 'tis all I can want, or my Soul be able to enjoy to all Eternity.

After this his Diſcourſe was much interrupted; he began to falter in his Speech, and he wanted Strength to expreſs the Earneſtneſs of his Soul: He was continually crying out, as he was able, to thoſe about him; O, the Riches of God's free Grace in Chriſt; ineſtimable is the Love of God; O his wonderous Goodneſs to a moſt worthleſs Worm; O, what Returns can I make for all this Profuſion of Mercy; my dear Friends bleſs God with me, and for me: Bleſſed be

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the Lord for ever, bleſſed be God my Saviour; O, I love God, I find I love him now indeed with my whole Heart; O, he is dearer to me than Life, than Breath, than all Things: I have not a Deſire but what is altogether towards him, I long to be with God and Chriſt; O, when ſhall I appear before God: He is my God, the Portion of my Soul, my only Felicity, and Happineſs, my delight, my utmoſt Wiſh, my all: O, none but Chriſt, none but Chriſt: He paus'd almoſt between each of the laſt above-mention'd Expreſſions; tho' to preſerve the Connection we have thought proper to inſert them together.

About a Quarter of an Hour after this: He ſaid to them, my Brethren, is not this very amazing to you: When I contemplate the Holineſs of God; I can't but cry out that I my ſelf am vile, moſt vile; and then when I conſider the Ju-

ſtice of God ; could any one imagine but that I ſhould be ſtruck with moſt dreadful Apprehenſions of approaching Judgment, and deſerved Wrath ; inſtead of that, I am under no Fear of the latter, and much deſire the former ; I long to appear before this glorious, this holy, this juſt God : I have a Righteouſneſs to plead that is perfect : The Holy Jeſus is my Surety ; and I cannot be diſappointed ; in Chriſt the Juſtice of God is as much my Security as his Mercy : Here's a Holineſs that tranſcends that of all the Angelick Hoſt, there is no charging my Redeemer with poſſible Folly : O, I know I am pardon'd for the Sake of Jeſus Chriſt my only Lord and Mediator ; I am ſure of it ; I am fully, freely pardon'd : I ſhall ſoon be thoroughly ſanctify'd and compleatly fitted for Glory : O, I want Words to expreſs my Gratitude, to tell my Joy ; adored be God,

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my Lord, my Saviour : This is the Work of God alone: O unfathomable Love: Infinite Condeſcention ; unmerited, unbounded Grace to a vile Offender : I deſerve Hell ; I enjoy Heaven.

Here at his Requeſt, one read the eighth Chapter to the Romans ; and to almoſt every Verſe, he would ſay ſomething ſuitable to the Contents of it ; 'twas now about one a-Clock : His Leggs were quite cold as high as his Knees, and his Fingers and Hands were little better : He deſired his Children to come near him once more, and take their laſt leave, for he was apprehenſive he ſhould not be able to ſpeak much longer : He kiſs'd and embrac'd them as before ; but told them, that ſhould be indeed the laſt Time, for he was afraid his Breath might be offenſive to them ; they were very much moved at this ; aſſured him of the contrary, and many tender-

neſſes paſt after, even, when he could not ſpeak at all, to convince him, that nothing of that Nature from a dying Father, could be diſtaſteful to them.

The laſt Words he directed to them alone were; my deareſt Children; may you be bleſſed living and dying: Let your Dependance be ever rightly placed on God, and you'll always experience the Happineſs of it to Soul and Body: Let your Submiſſion to God's Providences be always intire, and chearful; ſtudy diligently God's revealed Will, and at all times ſincerely Endeavour to perform it: Live ſuitable to your Engagements to him: Be conſtant in your Communion with his Church: May your Time be much ſpent in Prayer to God, in praiſing of him, in the delightful Contemplation of his divine Perfections; his Works of Creation, Redemption, and Providence; in ſelf-Examination

tion and in Converſation with his People; may the Glory of God and the good of his Church, be the conſtant diſintereſted Deſire of your Hearts; and the utmoſt Endeavour of your Lives: May you be kept from all Defections from the great God; may every Grace of his Holy Spirit, be implanted in your Souls; may every Grace be in daily and due Exerciſe; may God never leave you, nor forſake you; may you grow every Inſtant more meet to be Partakers of the Inheritance with the Saints in Light: May you encreaſe with all the Encreaſe of God, and be found to Glory and Praiſe at the Coming of Chriſt Jeſus: Thro' whoſe Righteouſneſs, in which alone you can be accepted, may you be preſented blameleſs without Spot, at the Bar of God; and be your Parents Crown of Rejoicing in the Great Day.

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Theſe Things were ſpoken with a very low Voice, and much Interruption, tho' in a ſurprizing Manner, conſidering how much he had falter'd in his Speech before.

One ask'd him, if he ſtill thought as he had ſaid in the Morning, that this would be his laſt Day; O yes, he ſaid, yes, yes: On this bleſſed, this happy Day, my dear Lord aroſe from the Dead and finiſh'd the great Work of Man's Redemption; and he will this Day, I doubt not, compleat his Goodneſs towards me; this Day I ſhall be with him in Paradiſe; I ſhall get rid of this Clog, this poor, wither'd, worn out Carkaſs; and be all Life, all Spirit, in the Preſence of my bleſſed Lord and Maſter.

O bleſſed be God, my deareſt Lord, for the Aſſiſtance I have had; for the Mercies, the Happineſſes I may ſay, of a Death bed: O, my Speech will go I find before me.

O

O Lord I am waiting for thy Salvation.

Lord Jesus receive my departing Spirit.

To thee my God and Saviour, I commit and commend my Soul; 'tis thine; thou hast redeemed it.

O, my Friends, Christ is my Guide; I am going to enter the dark Valley of the Shadow of Death, and know not one Step of the Way; yet I shall not take one wrong Step: All the Powers of Darkness, shall not, tho' they are now exerting their utmost Force; be able to hurt me; my Soul is the Charge of Angels, and the Almighty God is my Shield and Defence.

O, call me not a poor Creature; pity me not as a Dying Man: I am happy; I am all Joy, I have enough to dissolve my very Being; I have more than my Heart can hold: O, God is reconcil d; he is all Love; he is unchangeably

ably everlaſtingly mine, and I ſhall be happy in my God for ever: O, here is Heaven; here is Joy unutterable.

O, come and take me to thy ſelf, bleſſed Jeſus.

O, how I long for God; how my Soul deſires him.

O, for a Sight of Chriſt in Glory; to be ſatisfy'd with his Likeneſs;

O, for the Boſom of eternal Mercy: Bleſs God for me, my Friends, and praiſe him; and may Angels and the bleſſed Spirits above, take the Song of Praiſe from your Lips, and carry it up before the Throne, to God, and to the Lamb, in a more exalted glorious Manner than you are capable of: O, I ſhall ſoon make one of their bleſſed Society.

The Lord bleſs vou my dear Children, and Friends; pray, pray for me, my Speech is juſt gone; I can ſcarce ſpeak at all: After this, no Body could be aſſured what he ſaid, ſo that thoſe broken Sentences are all omitted.

The Reader may pleaſe to take Notice, that he was about two Hours uttering thoſe Expreſſions inſerted after what he ſaid to his Children; and that he hardly ſpoke two Sentences together, tho' the Tranſcriber has thus plac'd them together: It was now about five a-Clock, and the Miniſter came again to ſee him; he was not able to ſpeak a Word to him, having been Speechleſs above an Hour; However he was ſenſible who it was, and held up both his Hands, in token as it was underſtood, of his Deſire the Miniſter ſhould go to Prayers, which was accordingly done;

done; and he caſt up his Hands and Eyes ſeveral times, as if duly ſenſible and affected with what was ſaid: After this he lay very ſtill for a long time, and the Company were for leaving him, thinking he might fall aſleep; but about ten a-Clock they found he was juſt expiring, when going round his Bed, he opened his Eyes and moved his Hand toward his Son, who was next him; his Son took hold of it, and he found his Father preſs'd his Hand; after which he made the ſame Motion to them all, by which they concluded he was ſenſible: About half an Hour after eleven his laſt Moment came; he reſign'd his Soul without a Sigh, without a Groan, and ſweetly fell aſleep in Jeſus: He dy'd with a Smile upon his Lips, which ſeem'd indeed to be ſettled in his Countenance from the Inſtant he became Speechleſs, which was look'd upon as an

Evidence of his inward Tranquillity and an Indication of that Peace his happy Soul is now in full Poſſeſſion of: O Bleſs'd, Bleſs'd indeed, is the Death of the Righteous, there is no Latter End like theirs.

FINIS.

ERRATUM.

Page 26. Line 4. for *receiv'd* read *reviv'd.*

Evidence of his inward Tranquillity and an Indication of that Peace his happy Soul is now in full Possession of: O Bless'd, Bless'd indeed, is the Death of the Righteous, there is no Latter End like theirs.

FINIS.

ERRATUM.

Page 38, Line 4. for receiv'd read reviv'd.